

# HOME INTERESTS

## Trousers for Women Will Never Be a Fixture—They're Too Ugly

Feminine Demand for Beauty, Not Dread of Immodesty, Insures Permanence of Frills.

CLOTHES, TOO, ARE WORLD'S BULWARK OF COMMERCE.

By ANNETTE DUMONT.

A few years ago a lengthy discussion regarding whether woman would ever adopt trousers closed with the decision that never would woman consent to abandon the skirt. So sure was this well known author of his ground that he declared woman's entrance into certain kinds of work would depend largely upon the answer to the question, "Can she do it in skirts?" Of course, it isn't nice to poke in any one's face those three most annoying words in the language, "But you said." Still we're only human, and it's rather interesting to imagine this clothes prophet's bewilderment as he sees woman, under the stress of war, hastening into all kinds of occupations with no more thought of her skirts than the rescuer gives to his clothes when he plunges into the water after a drowning man.

In dealing with the clothes question the Romans seem to have displayed more intelligence than has ever been displayed since. The Roman men were quite well satisfied with their long skirted togas until the trousered barbarians from the north came down upon them. They soon saw the military advantage in a garb that gave the legs full play. So in their military expeditions into Gaul they donned the trousers. When they returned to the social life of Rome they resumed the toga. Why should not the character of a man's or woman's work determine what he or she shall wear? Clothes were made for man, and not man for clothes. We have truly drifted far from this common sense view, however, when we declare that a woman—an active, intelligent human being—must be guided in what she does by whether she can do it in skirts or not.

Not Immodest, Merely Sensible.

Trousers immodest? How can any garment be immodest if chosen as a badge of the kind of work you are doing? If women are making ammunition, guiding ploughs and driving ambulances, surely there is no question of immodesty in their donning the garment best fitted to do that work successfully.

On the other hand, what could be more immodest than to wear a particular garment merely as a badge of sex? Shall a woman wrap herself in swaddling clothes, like an infant, to advertise that she is a woman, and therefore a helpless creature, fit only to be coddled and petted and taken care of and hung as a millstone around some man's neck? Perhaps this is modest, but only in the sense in which a petition in bankruptcy is modest.

A short time ago, from the top of a mountain I watched a man and woman picking their way up a narrow trail. The woman fell so often she might almost as well have climbed that steep ascent on her hands and knees. When she reached the top her French heels were twisted at right angles to her trousers. Her silk stockings were torn. Her hands were bleeding, and her little hat was sitting awry on her head. Even her face was twisted in a painful attempt to look back and enjoy these stretches of mountain sky and lake for which she had done all this climbing. As a matter of fact, at that particu-



WHEN A WOMAN'S CLOTHES CAN MAKE HER LOOK LIKE THIS—

SHE'LL NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH A PLAIN GARB LIKE THIS

lar moment she would gladly have exchanged all these beauties of nature for a good sized looking glass. Still, if virtue is its own reward, what glow of self-satisfaction this woman must have been experiencing, for she had, even to the point of martyrdom, upheld the honor of our sex—she was wearing skirts!

But They're Too Ugly, Entirely.

But, even if trousers should be tried before the bar of public opinion and acquitted of the charge of immodesty, they would still have another indictment standing against them—they are ugly, just plain ugly. They are an offense to the eye. They have no form or comeliness, and when we see them there is no beauty to cause us to desire them. They are awkward and ill fitting. They do not look well standing up, and they look worse sitting down.

No, when it comes to beauty, trousers haven't a leg to stand on. They may be tolerated as a garment of utility and activity, and in proportion as women are required to become useful and active they should not be deterred from their use, but if women do not keep the fires burning on the altar of beauty who will? Now that nations have been forced to revert to the pioneer stage of existence and fight the battles of civilization all over again it is but natural that beauty and art should be lost sight of temporarily. Beauty, like truth, may be crushed to earth, but it will rise again, and when it does it will bring with it a vast array of beautiful silks and satins, velvets, brocades and broadcloths, organdies, cashmires, chiffon, lace, crepe and Indian lawn. And, pray, what have trousers to do with these? Imagine a Gainsborough, a Reynolds or a Romney wasting his art in portraying all the shimmering possibilities of the wonderful satins if they were made to stand up in straight, cylindrical, stove-pipe fashion in the form of a pair of trousers.

But it is not only beauty that will pre-

vent trousers from permanently usurping the place of evening gowns and dainty negligees. Women are after all only the pawns in the great chess game of clothes. Their demands for clothes and more clothes are bulwarks in the commercial world. It has said that the greatest calamity which could be conceived of as befalling great populations would be not a sanguinary war, a devastating famine or a deadly epidemic, but a revolution in fashion under which women should dress, as men practically do, in one color of one material. Many flourishing cities in Europe, America, China, Japan and India would be condemned by it to bankruptcy and starvation. It is not a question of what women want to wear, but of what manufacturers and tradespeople want them to wear. It is said the glove-fitting, hobbled skirt, by its scantiness of material, was responsible for one and a quarter million of unemployed men and women in American textile trades, and the stagnation in French loom towns assumed the proportions of a panic.

So there is probably no cause for alarm in the sudden craze for trousered effects in the styles of women. The pendulum will undoubtedly swing back again to a happy medium, but it would seem as if women could not do better than to imitate the Romans in choosing clothes fitted to the kind of life they are leading, to wear trousers while they do the work that calls for trousers, but to return to the toga and the skirt when they take up the peculiar work of women again—that of upholding the beauty, grace and charm of the world.

When, for the first time in my life, I turned my attention to economy in dress I realized that I was totally ignorant of many things which I now know are second nature to most women.

"I had never cleaned or pressed a suit in my life. I had never given any attention to my wardrobe after it was once purchased, thinking these things beneath one whose mind should be occupied with other and more important matters.

"Having decided to renovate my wardrobe, as I have always been thorough in whatever I do, I went to an extreme, perhaps, in one direction, just as I had formerly in the other.

"Hats were taken out and freshened by brushing, by placing a flower here, putting a band there, bending a shape or taking off one trimming from one hat and sharing it with another.

PRACTICAL SIEGE.

"My shirtwaists and small accessories, my gloves and boots and evening slippers went through the same process. As I worked a great sense of shame came over me that I, who am supposed to be a most intelligent woman and one given to good works, should ever have allowed so many useful things to accumulate, with no recognition of their real value.

"That siege of renovation was one of the most fascinating and most useful of my life. I learned many things besides the renovation of clothes, but this I did learn with thoroughness.

"And, strange to say, never in my life had I ever felt such a sense of being well dressed as when I put on one of my fur-trimmed gowns and my made over hat. And one reason for this, of course, was the sense that comes to us when we have accomplished what we set out to do."

### SEWING TIPS.

If you are not sure how to make any part of a garment you will save time, not by experimenting, but by looking at a similar old garment. This applies particularly to plackets, cuffs, collars and similar accessories.

Save and use leftover odd colors of sewing silk for basting silk fabrics, satin, chiffon, crepe, velvet and materials of that sort. Sewing silk will not mark the material, as will cotton thread.

Cut the basting threads in garments at rather short intervals before you attempt to remove them. To pull the length of a long basting thread from a garment is to risk tearing the fabric or at least separating the war and woof fibres. The difference of time between the two methods is negligible.

When you hem use a very fine needle and thread appropriately fine for the material. The right side stitches will be much smaller than when the hemming is done with a medium coarse needle, and the nervous effort to keep the stitches small on the right side will be greatly reduced.

When you baste use a long milliner's needle. It is a habit hard to acquire, but one that will be very helpful when once established.

When you are dressmaking have plenty of pins at hand. Dressmakers' slender steel pins are excellent for the purpose. At any rate, buy pins so fine that they will be virtually useless for other purposes.

By using slender, extra sharp pins you mark the fabric less.

When you work on black or dark fabric wear a white apron. The reflected light will be of material help.

Save all salvages of Georgette crepe, chiffon or fancy fine weaves. You can make a novel and attractive finish by applying them as a tiny ruffle or by leaving on the material in the original cutting.

### WAYS TO SAVE COAL.

Coal may be saved, says an expert, by keeping an even fire so the rooms will not become overheated.

At times when the rooms are not occupied, the heat should be shut off from them, in case you use a furnace. Fires should be carefully banked at night, so that they will not allow the house to become chilled.

Coal should be put in often and in not too large quantities at a time. Keep a full bed of live coals constantly, but be careful not to overload the fire with too much coal. If the furnace has an open, coarse grate, use coarse coal. If it has a fine grate, use fine coal.

It is wasteful to throw large, heavy chunks of coal into the furnace. The lumps should not be larger than three or four inches in diameter. All large pieces should be broken. Frequent stirring of the fire is wasteful, as pieces only partially burned fall through the grate.

### USE OF COLOR.

The world is wiser and better dressed when the great artists produce glorious colors as accessories to garments of somber tones. Even then there are a thousand women who go astray to a dozen who go right.

The helpful artists in dress will explain to women with intelligent patience that any kind of color can be managed in a costume if it is not placed next to the skin.

It is for this reason, and this alone, that those who deal in evening gowns have made an artistic success in choosing the most difficult color for the skin, if they so wish, and then building a bodice of tulle or crystals that rests against the skin of the neck without doing it any harm.

## Capable Women and Their Doings

The average pay of women typists in England is \$10 a week.

St. Paul cafes are prohibited from serving liquor to women.

Chinese bride always dresses in red. England is sending from 8,000 to 10,000 women workers to France every month.

Tacoma nurses, through their association, have raised their rates \$5 per week.

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company now employs over fifty women as subway guards.

Girl bus drivers in London receive \$2 per day, with an additional wage bonus of \$1.25 weekly.

Ruth Law, the darling aviatrix, is seeking a commission as a flyer in the United States Army.

Over 25,000 women in Delaware have already signed a petition which opposes woman suffrage.

Women are being suggested to take the place of male agents who are called away to war.

It took over fifty-three years for the women of New York to secure the right to vote.

Over seventy-five per cent of the school teachers in the United States are women.

The old time custom of binding the feet of Chinese women is still practiced in some parts of China.

Thirty women, wearing khaki trousers, are working as pipe fitters in a large New Jersey chemical plant.

The Women's Club in Wheeling, W. Va., voted against the holding of a Wagnerian opera in that city.

Automobile factories in the United States are training women to take the places of men who are called away to war.

Miss Genevieve Ward, an English actress, is still appearing before the public at the age of eighty.

Several French girls are now in this country instructing our girls how to cut, sew and glue ballpoint cloth.

Out of the 120 girls who took examinations for messengers in the government service at Washington, ninety-seven qualified.

For the first time since its organization, the National Security League has elected two women to its membership.

Mrs. Maurice Hewitt, wife of the novelist, is the first woman to become head of an aeroplane factory in Great Britain.

Under the provisions of the War Time Election act, over 1,000,000 Canadian women are entitled to vote in the coming elections.

Lady Byng, wife of the famous British General who battered down a strong section of the Hindenburg line, is a well known writer of fiction.

The women of Grand Rapids, Mich., have served daily 1,300 meals, including breakfasts, dinners and suppers, to the soldiers camped near them.

The overseas relief division of the National League for Women's Service will

have charge of the task of replanting the ruined orchards in France.

Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, of New York, has started on a special tour of British munition factories to see how the British women are "doing their bit."

Miss Julia Ricketts, who is running for the presidency of the senior class of the University of Chicago, is the first girl to be a candidate for that office.

The women of the State of Guanajuato, Mexico, have been given the privilege of voting on all municipal matters, the only restriction being that they must be of good character.

Simmons College, one of the first women's colleges in the country to take up military training, has substituted the manual of arms and military marching for regular gymnasium work.

Dr. Katherine B. Davis, former Commissioner of Correction, has a resigned her \$7,500 job as head of the New York Parole Board to become general secretary of the Rockefeller Bureau of Social Hygiene.

Under the recent decision of the British House of Commons, only married women whose husbands are also entitled to municipal franchise, are entitled to the right to vote in municipal matters.



MISS RUTH LAW



MISS KATHERINE B. DAVIS

## The Banana's Place on the Table

Use bananas to cut the high cost of living! There was a time when the banana was considered a luxury and something to be locked in the cupboard. That time has passed.

It is one of the most nutritious foods, and can be used in many ways. If we come to bread tickets the banana may very largely satisfy our craving for starchy food.

It is one of the few fruits that contain distinctive nutritive qualities. It is really a "food fruit" and, from the standpoint of its food value, can be placed in the same class with potatoes, rice and bread.

Bananas are rich in nutriment, and because of their little cost may be used extensively by the poor. They would also be more generally consumed if housewives recognized how very much "meat" is contained in them.

In the jungles of Africa whole tribes subsist principally on bananas as their staple food; their bread, in fact.

A savage will carry seventy-five pounds' weight on his head, marching from sunrise to sundown on a diet of six bananas a day to sustain a man doing the hardest kind of work—head portage over the one man wide paths of the almost inaccessible jungles. And the men are the hardest creatures you can imagine.

The banana is one of the great curiosities of the vegetable kingdom. One cannot call it a tree, a bush, a shrub, or a herb or a vegetable, but a herbaceous plant with the status of a tree.

Though there is no woody fibre in any part of its structure, it sometimes grows as tall as thirty feet, and the bunches of fruit are so prolific that they are often heavier than the stalks that support them. Of all fruits, the banana yields most

food per acre. It yields forty times more by weight than the potato, and as much as 120 times more than wheat.

It is immune from disease of any sort, and no insect will attack it.

Nervous people often reject bananas that have become brown and mushy, fearing microbes; but such fear is needless.

The banana is fit to eat as soon as it has lost all the green color, and remains fit, no matter how black it may be, so long as the skin is unbroken, for until the latter occurs there can be no admission of air and no decomposition.

Bananas may be prepared in various ways. They can be fried and baked, and those not yet quite ripe are in this way rendered more digestible. Cut in slices, they may be baked in pastry and also used in omelets.

They are likewise very useful in the form of flour. This is easily digested, although it is made from the unripe fruit. When a very ripe banana is laid upon a

hot stove in the skin it develops a wonderful aroma and the fruit becomes partially dissolved. Such a remarkably useful fruit is surely deserving of great attention.

It is often used for medicinal purposes. In the French colonies where it is prepared in the form of a purgative for use. It is endowed with a remedial action which is not only beneficial in intestinal affections but in a healthy person as well.

In much the same way as a rice diet, and the use of much sugar in general, bananas have an antiseptic action upon the decomposition products in the intestine, and may also prevent their development.

But simply on account of its digestibility and great nutritive value the banana is a very healthful food.

One of the most popular, nutritious, toothsome and widely used food staples in our national dietary is this humble fruit.

## Recipes for War Time Sweets

Behold one of our war time problems has been solved! We housewives need not hear our families' cries for "cake" in vain. Through necessity some of our women, as well as some of our Allies, have invented these war time recipes. Try some of them.

### Camp Cake.

Beat to a cream half a cupful of butter substitute with three-quarters of a cupful of brown sugar; add two cupfuls of self-

raising flour, two eggs well beaten, half a cupful of milk and half a cupful of Sultana raisins.

Mix well, turn into a cake tin lined with greased paper and bake in a moderate oven for fifty minutes.

### Red Cross War Cake.

Mix together two cupfuls of brown sugar, two cupfuls of hot water, two tablespoonfuls of lard, one teaspoonful of salt and one package of seeded raisins.

Boil for five minutes, or until they begin to bubble. When cold add one teaspoonful of ground cloves, one teaspoonful of ground cinnamon, three cupfuls of flour and one teaspoonful of soda. Bake for forty-five minutes in a slow oven. This cake was made and sold—also the recipe—by a New York Red Cross Chapter for the benefit of its funds.

Soldiers' Cake.

Mix one cupful of butter substitute with one cupful of brown sugar; add two eggs, well beaten, three-quarters of a cupful of milk, two cupfuls of whole wheat flour, one cupful of flour sifted with four teaspoonfuls of baking powder, half a teaspoonful of salt and one teaspoonful of mixed spice.

Then add one cupful each of currants and seeded raisins.

Mix well, turn into a greased and floured cake tin and bake in a moderate oven for two hours. The cake should cook quickly for the first ten minutes and more slowly afterward.

This is one of the cakes which is made in Great Britain and sent to the men at the front.

Prisoners' Bread.

Into a bowl sift seven pounds of flour and stir in enough tepid water to make a firm dough. Turn out on a floured baking board, knead thoroughly until elastic, then knead in four tablespoonfuls of butter substitute, one tablespoonful of sugar and two teaspoonfuls of salt. Divide into three portions and bake in a good hot oven.

This bread does not go moldy; if necessary it will keep for one month. It is one of the breads sent from England to the prisoners abroad.

Tipperary Cake.

Cream half a cupful of butter substitute with three-quarters of a cupful of brown sugar; add one teaspoonful of vanilla extract and three-quarters of a cupful of milk. Mix and sift together two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of baking soda, a quarter of a teaspoonful of salt and two cupfuls each of whole wheat flour and white flour.

Combine the mixtures; add another half a cupful of milk and beat well. Turn into a greased and floured cake tin, place two thin strips of candied orange or lemon peel on the top and bake in a moderate oven for one hour.

This cake is often served at farewell parties given to the "Tommys" before they leave for the front.

### CHINESE MATS.

For your flower pots why not use Chinese mats? They come round, in several sizes and in lovely color combinations, beautifully embroidered. A lower of flower pots, each standing upon a Chinese mat.

## Home Renovation of Winter Wardrobe

One woman stated that her large contribution to war relief recently had been made possible by the wearing of her old clothes, all money which would ordinarily have gone to the dressmakers and milliners having been put into Red Cross work.

This is not intended as a plea for all women to give in this way, for were we to pursue such a practice without discrimination this country would face such a panic as it has probably never before known.

NECESSARY EXPENSES.

The spirit that she displayed was admirable, and in her case it was the only solution of the problem so many of us are facing—how to carry our necessary expenses and yet do our part for the government.

She had no great wealth to draw on, so she did the only thing which seemed possible to her. She wore her old clothes and look the money she otherwise would have spent in the shops and with mantua makers and used it for her country.

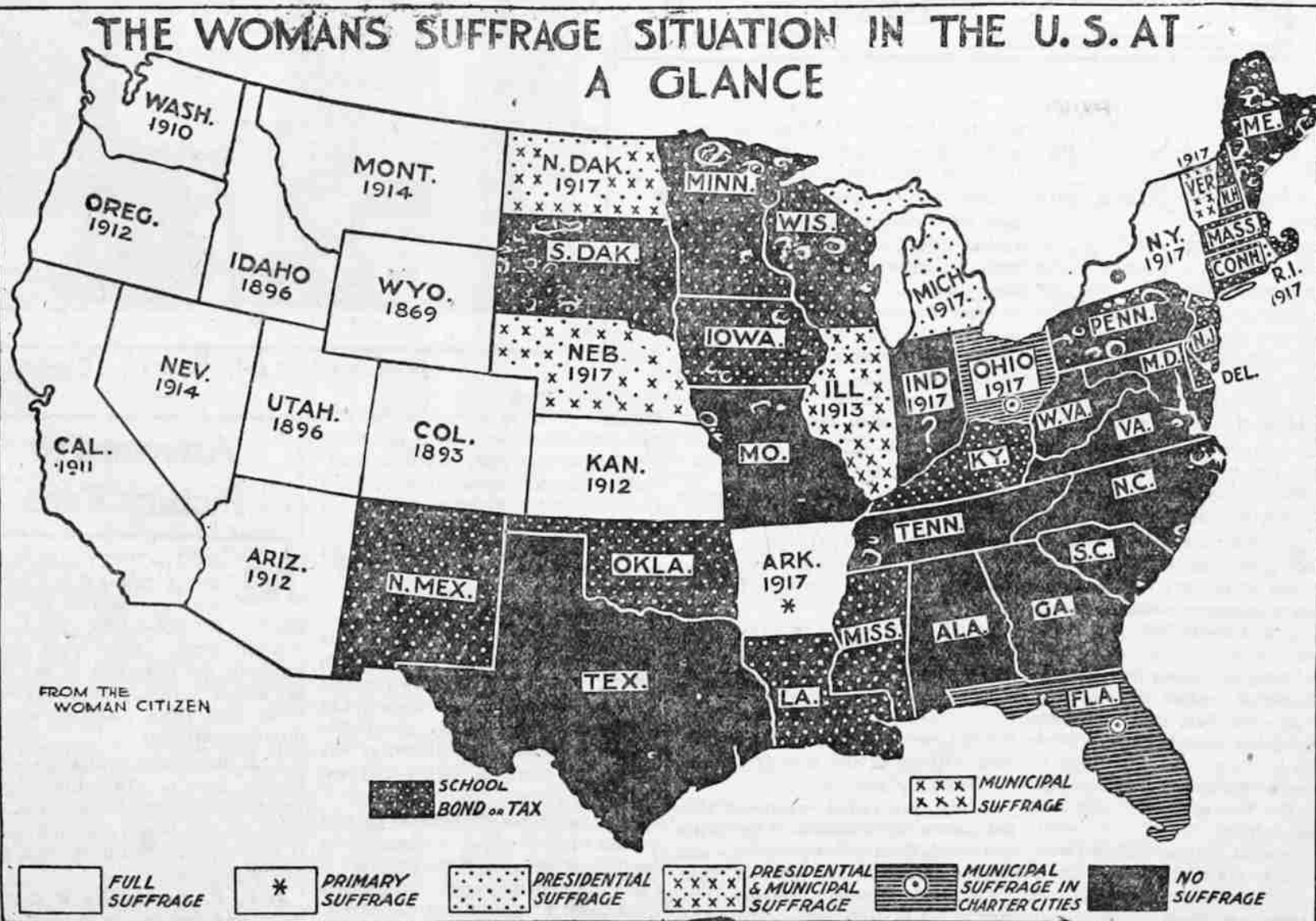
Here and now it is not necessary to go into the economic problem which we are constantly facing and having to decide for ourselves—whether it is best to save money or to spend money. Circumstances decide this in a very large measure.

But one of the interesting things about this woman is the fact that never before in all her life, according to her own testimony, had she felt so well dressed or been so often congratulated on the good appearance she made.

"I had never been a very careful person about my dress," she said. "Having always had many duties that demanded time and attention, I dressed, as I do most things, in a semi-mechanical way.

"I put aside a certain amount each season for clothes, and a certain amount of time was spent at the milliner's and the dressmaker's—time that I begrudged, but that I felt I must give to making myself presentable, just as I must give a certain amount of my time to my church duties and to the routine of my household.

"Not being a beauty and never having



The Legislature of Ohio gave Presidential suffrage to women, but the male voters took it away at the polls on November 6, 1917.

The Legislature of Indiana gave nine-tenths full suffrage to women. The Supreme Court took away municipal and special suffrage. Among conflicting reports it seems as if Presidential suffrage also is lost.

Wherever a State has more than one kind of suffrage that of the highest denomination only is recorded.

States where women may vote on school questions—Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

Where women may vote on bond issues or taxation and library trustees—Iowa, Louisiana and Minnesota.

Where the municipal suffrage towns are—Florida—Aurantia and Cocoa, in Brevard county; Orange City and Deland, in Volusia county; West Palm Beach, in Palm Beach county; Fellsme, in St. Lucie county; Florence Villa, Polk county; Moore Haven, De Soto county; Clearwater, Delray.

Ohio—Lakewood, East Cleveland, Columbus.

Maryland—Annapolis.

North Carolina—Wrightsville.

Delaware—Milford, Newark.

Tennessee—Lookout Mountain.